

How to Transform Degraded Urban Space ?

Tuesday and Wednesday, 21st and 22nd of Maj 2013

ACE KIBLA

Exhibition of the Students from Central St. Martins College of Art & Design, London (GB)

The working plan of the project EU-PA consisted of five work units that included field work and experimental creative activity. In the first work package students explored, investigated and observed the target area of London, Maribor, Jesolo and Prague. With the help of the information gathered, students developed the visions and urban/artistic interventions in the workshops and creative laboratories. At the exhibition, students will be presenting video and photographic documentation of research findings and the actions undertaken.

Conference Speakers abstracts

PANEL 1: Activism for Social Realm and Art's Purpose in Contemporary Society

Ahac Meden: PREJK 12

The purpose of the PREJK 12 project, which was held in Murska Sobota in September 2012 as a part of the European Capital of Culture Maribor 2012, was the temporary recovery of specific degraded areas while raising awareness of inhabitants through cultural and artistic practices. The intention for a continuous practice is illustrated by the name of the project "PREJK 12" which in Prekmurje dialect means "beyond 12" – therefore "after the year 2012". Through this experiment concrete issues that are common to the wider contemporary reality have begun to show.

Ahac Meden: BA in Cultural Studies (2007), Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Ljubljana and Master of Social Communication (2009) at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona. Co-founder and researcher of the Institute for Intercultural Research and Cultural Understanding (DrMr).

Hana Repše and Domen Rupnik : Art as Life

Nanagiriti.si festival has been running since 2004. The basic idea of the project is to find conceptual models how to solve the problems of young artists: existential, social, financial, productional ... It is a joint creation of embedded objects in a public space.

The festival was suspended in 2009 in order to resolve personal situations of organizers. This year, the festival will take the revival. In some way Hana Repše and Domen Rupnik continued their research of the festival with post-graduate studies at the Academy of Fine Arts, where they got involved self-sufficiency, permaculture, and everyday life in the artistic field, as did Allan Kaprow.

Hana Repše and Domen Rupnik: professors of fine arts (2007) PEF UM, master (2012) at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana. Film and animation workshops, design, mentoring.

Maruša Novak: Biomodd and Other Hacks

Biomodd is a platform for dialogue and experimentation. At the forefront of this collaborative and open source project lies the integration of biology and technology in a diverse artistic process - its existence warranted by those who partake in and thus co-create it. Fueled by the diverse interests and skills of individuals, the idea is spread and built communities all over the world, which makes this hybrid installation, regardless of its place in society, so different and unique.

Biomodd's impact on the following projects: "Alternative spots of Maribor" : I <3 Plants, diy robotics workshops, collaborative projects, ...

Author: Community Biomodd (Maribor, I <3Plants Maribor, Delft, New York)

Maruša Novak graduated at the Fine Arts Department at Faculty of Education of University of Maribor (2012) with a thesis »Art as an Interdisciplinary and Participatory Process«.

Monika Pocrnjić: I<3Plants

"I <3Plants" is a virtual, interactive, social, artistic open-source project that connects ecology, technology and art. During the workshop Biomodd in Maribor, we had built in a very short time a "hybrid" made of computer waste and plants. The live synthesis of technology and botany was created and presented as an interactive installation at Kibla.

Creative team: Maruša Novak , Monika Pocrnjić, Špela Kobal (2010/11).

Monika Pocrnjić is a student of the Fine Arts Department at Faculty of Education of University of Maribor.

Dušan Zidar: The Alternative Tourist Spots of Maribor

In the project "Alternative tourist spots of Maribor" we had been researching the city of Maribor, which has experienced the significantly changes in the last decade. The students were engaged with a wide range of different solutions that were indicating the transformation of the city due to complex changes: economic, social, and also maybe quite personal ones. Therefore the Art itself could not avoid the changes. In this perspective, we raised the "logical" question of Art's purpose in contemporary society, "aesthetics"....

assoc. prof. **Dušan Zidar** is a lecturer of the subject Sculpture and the head of the Fine Arts Department at Faculty of Education of University of Maribor. He is academic sculptor, lecturer and mentor. His philosophical and artistic statement is accounted for by installations containing forays into visual and sound exploration.

PANEL 2: Creative Approaches for Activating and Transforming the Public Realm

Patricia Austin: Creative Approaches for Activating and Transforming the Public Realm

Existing culture-led city regeneration strategies are often over-reliant on signature architecture and/or scattergun strategies to install art works in the public realm. This paper advocates that the design and use of public space combine destination planning and creative, narrative, co-design that include artists, designers, inhabitants, government and commercial stakeholders.

Patricia Austin is Course Leader MA Narrative Environments and Acting Research Leader for the Spatial Practices Programme (Central St. Martins College of Art & Design, London). She is an academic, researcher, author, curator and design consultant. She has lectured in Europe and Asia and led collaborative narrative environments projects with universities and governmental organisations across the world.

Ekavi Whitlock-Blundell & Noémi Zajzon: Skillscycle-Unlocking the Public Realm with the Four Wheelbarrows

Skillscycle is a project about facilitating social exchange and interaction between community groups located in the King's Cross area in Central London. The students chose to focus around this location due to its ongoing radical regeneration, from a degraded centre to a cultural and commercial hub. Workshops were held in various communities which aimed to transform people's stories and time into bartering material and help people connect between them and with their community's transformation.

Noémi Zajzon & Ekavi Whitlock-Blundell: Letna Reveals

»Collecting Prague« offer short-term visitors a discovery of the city's underground scene off the beaten tracks while interacting with venues across the city. The application acts as a tool to collect markers from categories like Food, Drink, Performance, Exhibitions and Shopping on the way up to Letna Park. The panorama from the hilltop reveals an augmented reality of the collected locations and encourages the audience to visit by offering discounts, and rate the overall experience.

Ekavi Whitlock-Blundell and **Noémi Zajzon** are MA students in Creative Practice for Narrative Environments, Central St. Martins College of Art & Design, London.

Seung Youn Lee: Talking Crest (Reshaping the Identity of King's Cross) London

Since October 2011, Talking Crest developed groundbreaking thinking about the ongoing reshaping of King's Cross, perceiving a sense of urgency for the stimulation of a local identity. From the 3rd to the 18th of May 2012, the collective held engaging workshops dedicated to the people who live, travel and study in the area. These were to design and make flags for a mini-procession and live music event in Granary Square to celebrate King's Cross and its community. The first of this kind in the area, the event unfolded with colorful banners, clothing and installations on boats, voiced by the chants of selected choirs emerging from Regents' Canal.

Creative team: Sara Angelucci, Alex Augustus, Mia Frances Kennedy, Seung Youn Lee, Leticia Lozano, Radha Mistry, Rebecca Wood

Seung Youn Lee: Jesolo 'Pipe City'

Jesolo is successful a tourist destination based on the North-East coast of Italy. The city is lively and active in the summer months, but largely abandoned in the winter. Among the locals there is a strong demand for more varied cultural activities year-round, but specifically for places to shelter from the sun during the sweltering summer months. The purpose of Pipe City is to generate a cooled area using water pipes and nebulizers to produce a mist environment - to play and to stay during day and night. The pipe system also acts as an instrument, able to produce sounds, and will become an artist platform, where artworks and films can be projected all year round.

Creative team: Alexander Augustus, Manuel Di rita, Cristiana Favretto, Seung Youn Lee, Isabella Mara

Seung Youn Lee is an MA student in Creative Practice for Narrative Environments, Central St. Martins College of Art & Design, London.

Alenka Banič: The Chairs Project

A long chain of chairs was formed as a connective – communicative element between Glavni Trg Square and Koroška Street, informing people of an event taking place at the courtyard behind the former Bar Koper. The intervention was created with a desire for an inter-connection, communication and activation of the residents of Koroška Street, as well as other local inhabitants.

The chairs were collected by means of a public appeal and were donated by citizens, associations, schools and other institutions. Every chair was furnished with a label stating the name of its owner. After the event people were free to choose a chair that they liked and take it home.

Art director: Mirjana Rukavina

Assistance: Alenka Banič

Guest artist: Martin Romeo

Concept: Margherita Poggiali, Lizon Tijus, Flavia D'Amico, Alenka Banič, Alexander Augustus (all from Central St. Martins College of Art & Design, London)

Alenka Banič: 101 Things to Do in an Empty Swimming Pool

An ongoing collaborative project was experimenting with the possibilities of revitalization of the abandoned pool in the Maribor City Park, Slovenia. Through several workshops, interventions and surveys more than hundred local and international people of all ages were invited to contribute their ideas of how to give the pool a new function. A selection of the collected suggestions has been published in a book which will be given to the mayor of Maribor as a present. With the book and the project we would like to trigger a spark of inspiration and give the local city authorities an incentive to take appropriate action.

Alenka Banič is a MA student in Creative Practice for Narrative Environments, Central St. Martins College of Art & Design, London.

PANEL 3: Expertise

Matevž Čelik: From Architecture of Buildings to Architecture of Systems

More than ever the dynamic of socio-economic change today is forcing cities and municipalities into new ways of planning and governance. In order to enable cities more up-to-date responses to challenges the planning documents passed over from strict regulation maps to more open strategic schemes. How did this affect the quality of urban environment? Today we know that we primarily have to understand different processes and we need to restore or complete the systems that inevitably affect on the improvement of living space. It is not necessarily about buildings.

Matevž Čelik: architect, urbanist, author (New Architecture in Slovenia), columnist, editor. He is director of Museum of Architecture and Design (MAO) in Ljubljana.

Janko Rožič: Art of Siting : The Architecture Between Upgrading and Degradation

Through cutting-edge knowledge of architecture and spatial wisdom of the old masters, with comprehensive renovation of historical cores and suburban re-urbanization of European cities beyond the ideologies of modernism and imagologies of postmodernism is possible to bridge the gap between the old and the new. Example of good practice is transformation of the old military prison in

Hostel Celica, which in 2006 was declared »the hippest hostel of the world« and in 2012 on the list of 501 the most attractive tourist destinations of the world.

Janko Rožič: architect and urban planner, essayist, environmentalist, lecturer at the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Civil Engineering, University of Maribor.

PANEL 4: Site-Specific Best Practise

Matej Andraž Vogrinčič: Site-Specific Personal: From Experience of Finding Place and Idea to the Direct Connections with Inhabitants

Site specific projects tell stories about experiences of creating installations specific to local places, traditions and histories – filling the most ordinary or neglected places with even more ordinary objects. Insight into thousands of hours of devoted work realized with the help of community. The journey starts with the first projects in hometown twenty years ago and leads from Venice (1999) to Australia (2002 – 2005), United Kingdom (2006) - and ends back in Slovenia with project for the exhibition Almost Spring at the Maribor Art Gallery last winter.

Artist **Matej Andraž Vogrinčič** (1970) has been creating site-specific work in urban and natural environments since the early 1990s.

Miha Turšič : Site specific: KSEVT Vitanje Slovenia

An opening of the Cultural Centre of European Space Technologies (2012).

Architectural association for Vitanje presented their vision of a building that would be hosting research for Space culturalisation and the Composite of Art and Science (2009).

KSEVT runs two main programmes, a local, focused on cultural and educational services in Vitanje and the planetary Cultural Space Programme, which is focused on the involvement of Arts and Humanistics into space research.

Miha Turšič is director (2010) and co-founder. He is actively involved in space culturalisation since 2004, creating a weightless dwellings and postgravity art in collaboration with Dunja Zupančič and Dragan Živadinov.